



VIA ECFS

March 6, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90  
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest for Price Cap Areas  
Hancock Rural Telephone Corporation d/b/a NineStar Connect**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Hancock Rural Telephone Corporation d/b/a NineStar Connect ("NineStar") hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.<sup>1</sup> NineStar is a second-in-the-nation rural telephone and electric cooperative that provides ILEC and, (through a subsidiary) CLEC voice, broadband and IP video services. It currently owns and maintains 671 route miles of fiber optic cables serving rural areas of seven east central Indiana counties. A complete company history can be found at [www.ninestarconnect.com](http://www.ninestarconnect.com). NineStar proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Areas

The experiment will provide broadband service to 1,710 eligible high-cost locations in unserved high-cost Census Blocks with these Census Tracts:

COUNTY	STATE	CENSUS TRACT
Henry	IN	9756
Henry	IN	9757
Henry	IN	9767
Henry	IN	9768
Rush	IN	9742
Shelby	IN	7101
Shelby	IN	7102

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

COUNTY	STATE	CENSUS TRACT
Madison	IN	101
Madison	IN	102
Madison	IN	103
Madison	IN	104
Madison	IN	105
Madison	IN	108
Madison	IN	109
Madison	IN	110
Madison	IN	111

#### Proposed Services

Henry, Rush, Shelby Counties: Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of 100 Mbps downstream/100 Mbps upstream provided over fiber to the home/fiber to the premises technology.

Madison County: Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of 6 Mbps downstream/ 2 Mbps upstream provided over Licensed AWS Spectrum.

#### Funding

Because the unserved high-cost census blocks within the selected Census Tracts have yet to be identified, NineStar is unable to estimate the construction costs and amount of funding needed. The costs will be identified if and when a formal proposal is submitted.

NineStar expects service within the unserved high-cost Census Blocks to be offered within two (2) years after construction starts.

NineStar appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,



Tim Hills  
President & CEO